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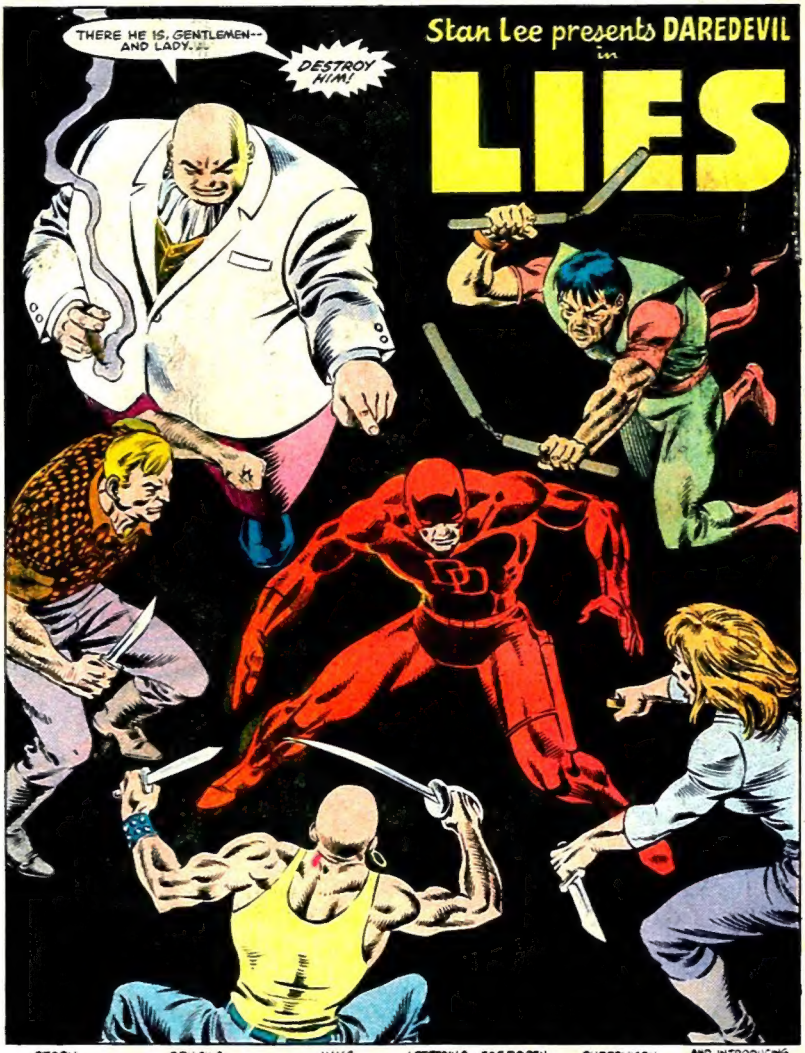

STORY DENNY O'NEIL | PENCILS DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI | INKS DANNY BULANADI & PAT REDDING | LETTERING - JOE ROSEN | COLORING - CHRISTIE SCHEELE | SUPERVISON JIM SHOOTER | AND INTRODUCING AS EDITOR RALPH MACCHIO

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AIN'T NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY.

THAT, GENTLEMEN, WAS BY WAY OF A WARNING. SOME OF YOU WILL BE TAKING ORDERS FROM DAREDEVIL IN THE COMING WEEKS--AND SOME OF YOU MAY BEAR GRUDGES FROM PAST ENCOUNTERS.
DO NOT ACT ON YOUR FEELINGS. DAREDEVIL IS CAPABLE OF PUNISHING YOU.

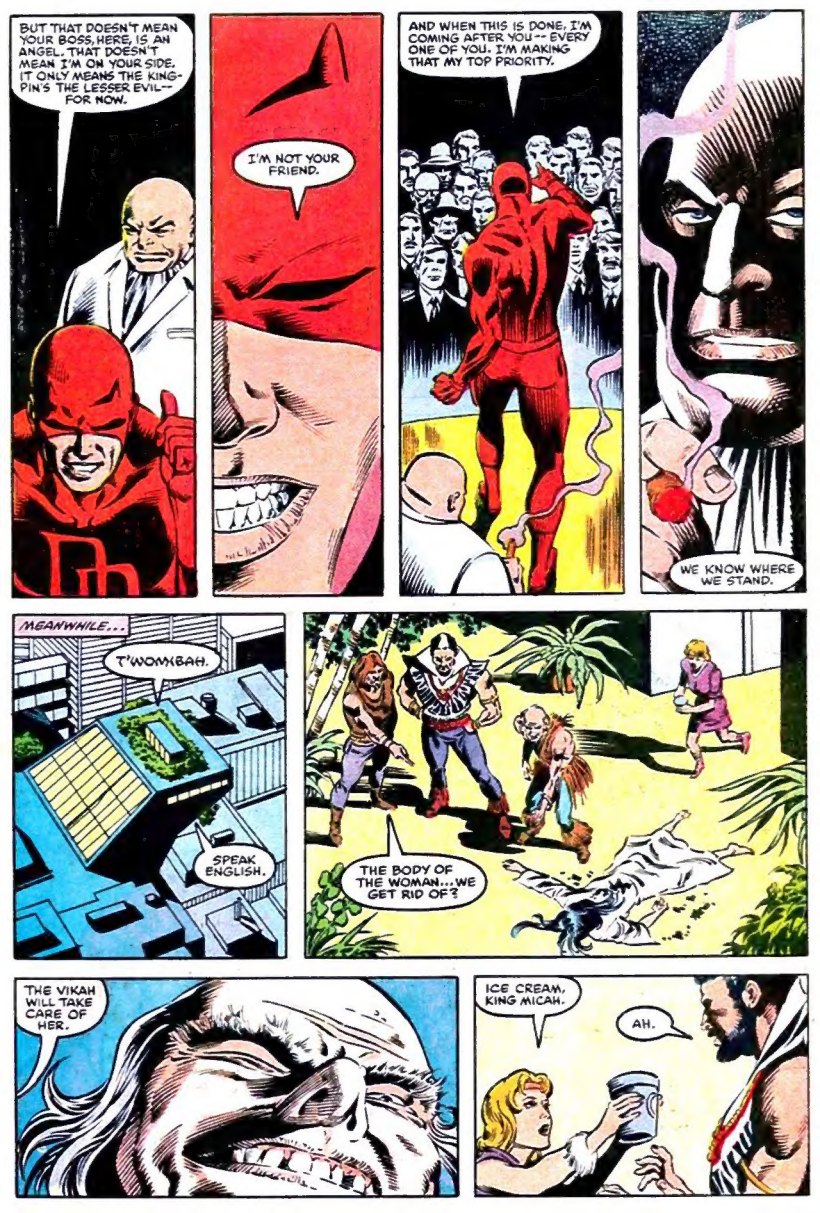
AND IF HE DOES NOT, I SHALL.

BUT WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, BOSS?
MICAH SYNN AND HIS RAGAMUFFINS HAVE MOUNTED AN ATTACK ON OUR ORGANIZATION. THE TIMING IS NOT FORTUNATE. OTHER MATTERS ARE DEMANDING MY ATTENTION.

DAREDEVIL WILL ACT AS MY AGENT IN DEALING WITH SYNN.

BUT ONLY IN DEALING WITH SYNN.

LISTEN AND LISTEN GOOD, ALL OF YOU. I'M AGREEING TO THIS BECAUSE MICAH SYNN IS THE MOST RUTHLESS MAN I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED AND UNLESS HE'S STOPPED HE'LL BRING THE CITY TO ITS KNEES.


BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOUR BOSS, HERE, IS AN ANGEL. THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M ON YOUR SIDE. IT ONLY MEANS THE KINGPIN'S THE LESSER EVIL-- FOR NOW.
I'M NOT YOUR FRIEND.
AND WHEN THIS IS DONE, I'M COMING AFTER YOU-- EVERY ONE OF YOU. I'M MAKING THAT MY TOP PRIORITY.
WE KNOW WHERE WE STAND.
MEANWHILE...
T'WOMKBAH.
SPEAK ENGLISH.
THE BODY OF THE WOMAN...WE GET RID OF?
THE VIKAH WILL TAKE CARE OF HER.
ICE CREAM, KING MICAH.
AH.

CHIEF MICAH...I'VE JUST HEARD *TERRIBLE* NEWS! THAT SECRETARY OF NELSON AND MURDOCK'S...THAT BECKY BLAKE--
--YOU REMEMBER HER? WELL, SHE'S CALLING A PRESS CONFERENCE. SHE PLANS TO SAY THAT YOU TRIED TO *KILL* HER...THAT YOU *DID* KILL ANOTHER WOMAN IN SOME KIND OF RITUAL SACRIFICE...
ALL A LIE, OF COURSE, BUT...
NO LIE, LITTLE MAN, LOOK!

THAT... THING DROPS ONTO SOMEONE TIED BENEATH, AND, AND...
THAT'S AWFUL, MICAH! YOU'RE... INHUMAN!
BUT YOU WILL SERVE ME ANYWAY.
MEANWHILE, AT THE LAW OFFICES OF NELSON AND MURDOCK...
I CAN'T, DEBBIE!
I CAN'T DO THAT TO BECKY!
SUIT YOURSELF, FRANKLIN! YOU CAN REACH ME AT MY SISTER'S --
-- IF AND WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND!
DEBBIE... DON'T GO. PLEASE! I... I'LL DO IT!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--
WE'VE CALLED YOU HERE TODAY BECAUSE MY SECRETARY, MS. BLAKE, HAS SOMETHING TO TELL YOU CONCERNING MICAH SYNN! AS A MEMBER OF THE BAR--AND AS A CONCERNED CITIZEN--I FEEL YOU SHOULD HEAR IT!
BECKY?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BEGIN...

IT'S JUST THAT... MICAH SYNN KIDNAPPED ME AND ANOTHER WOMAN--I THOUGHT AT THE TIME SHE WAS VANESSA, THE KINGPIN'S WIFE, BUT NOW I'M NOT SURE...
THEY TIED US UP UNDER A LOT OF SHARP STAKES AND THEY WERE GOING TO...
...TO MURDER US WHEN DAREDEVIL INTERVENED. THE PERSON I KNEW AS VANESSA... SHE HELPED ME GET AWAY BUT AS WE WERE GETTING ON THE ELEVATOR SHE...
THEY THREW A SPEAR INTO HER. I WATCHED HER DIE...
THANK YOU, BECKY.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I REALIZE THAT SOME OF YOU CONSIDER MICAH SYNN TO BE SOME SORT OF NOBLE SAVAGE--SOME KIND OF MODERN-DAY TARZAN. BELIEVE ME, HE IS NOT.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE HE AND HIS FOLLOWERS LIVED ON THAT AFRICAN MOUNTAIN--IN THAT TOTALLY HARSH ENVIRONMENT--OR BECAUSE OF A NATURAL INCLINATION TO EVIL--AND THE REASON ISN'T IMPORTANT.
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT MICAH SYNN IS TOTALLY CORRUPT AND...
LIES!
THAT'S NOT TRUE... ANY OF IT!

THEN FRANKLIN NELSON WENT ON TO ALLEGE THAT HE OVERHEARD MATTHEW MURDOCK AND MS. BLAKE PLANNING TO LIE BECAUSE MICAH SYNN HAD NOT AGREED TO A LARGER FEE.
THE WEATHER AFTER THIS--
DID I DO WELL?
YES.
AND, ACROSS MANHATTAN...
NO GOOD.
I'VE BEEN TRYING THE BLOSSOM TECHNIQUE FOR FORTY MINUTES AND IT ISN'T WORKING. I CAN'T CONCENTRATE. I CAN'T CALM MYSELF.
EH--? SOMBONE'S COMING.
FOOTSTEPS ARE FAMILIAR--
--AS IS THE AFTERSHAVE. IT'S FOGGY.
R-RING
NO. I WON'T ANSWER. HE CAN'T POSSIBLY SAY ANYTHING I WANT TO HEAR.

NO HEAT COMING FROM THE WINDOW. SUN'S GONE DOWN.
IT'S TIME.
NOW, MOVING, HE FORGETS. AND GLIDES THROUGH THE CITY THAT IS A PART OF HIS SOUL.
SENSE IMPRESSIONS -- TASTES, SMELLS, SOUNDS, EVEN PRESENCES. THE CHANGING OF WARM TO COOL. THE PLAY OF BREEZE PRICKLING HIS SKIN -- THESE GIVE HIM EVERYTHING HE NEEDS TO KNOW AND FILL HIM WITH A SUBTLE JOY.
HE IS BLIND. BUT NO SIGHTED MAN WAS EVER SO AWARE.
HE IS IN HIS WORLD.

THE KINGPIN SAID SYNN'S BOYS WILL BE RECEIVING A PAYOFF HERE TONIGHT... PROTECTION MONEY.
A ZOO! APPROPRIATE ...CONSIDERING WHERE THE KINGORGE COME FROM!
CITY ZOO
IT'S A BIG PLACE...GOT TO LOCATE THEM.

SCRAPE OF CLOTH AGAINST CLOTH / MOVEMENT / SMELL OF PROCESSED FOOD--

THIS WAY!
ZOO

YER SURE THIS IS OKAY WIT' THE KINGPIN?

GIVE--

--TO ME!

THIS, GENTLEMEN, IS KNOWN AS EVIDENCE!
CONSIDER YOURSELVES UNDER CITIZENS ARREST!

I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T.
WHUFF

HE'S BUSY WIT' THE FREAKS... GONNA MAKE MY REP--
BLAM
THOK

?
THE LAST OF THEM ISN'T FEELING BRAVE... THINKS HE CAN OUTRUN ME.
THE BUSHES ARE CONFUSING MY RADAR SENSE. BUT I DON'T NEED IT.
I CAN TRACK HIM BY THE NOISE HE'S MAKING.
HE'S BREATHING HARD... OBVIOUSLY NOT USED TO RUNNING UP A HILL!

KWOK
WHUMPF!

RRRRR-OOARRR
I THINK I'M IN TROUBLE!

ONE MORE BEAST BETWEEN ME AND THE FENCE ...AND HE LOOKS UNHAPPY ABOUT WHAT I DID TO HIS FRIEND.
NICE KITTY.
KLUNKK

MINUTES LATER...
LLAMA
YOU'RE AWAKE, HUH? GOOD!
I'M GONNA DO YOU A FAVOR--

--I'M NOT GOING TO SHOVE THIS PIECE ALL THE WAY UP YOUR NOSE! IN RETURN, YOU'LL DO SOMETHING FOR ME. YOU'LL PASS THE WORD AROUND THAT NOBODY PAYS MICAH SYNN A CENT.
BECAUSE IF THEY DO, I'LL BREAK THEM INTO BITE-SIZE PIECES--

--AND HAVE THEM FOR BREAKFAST!

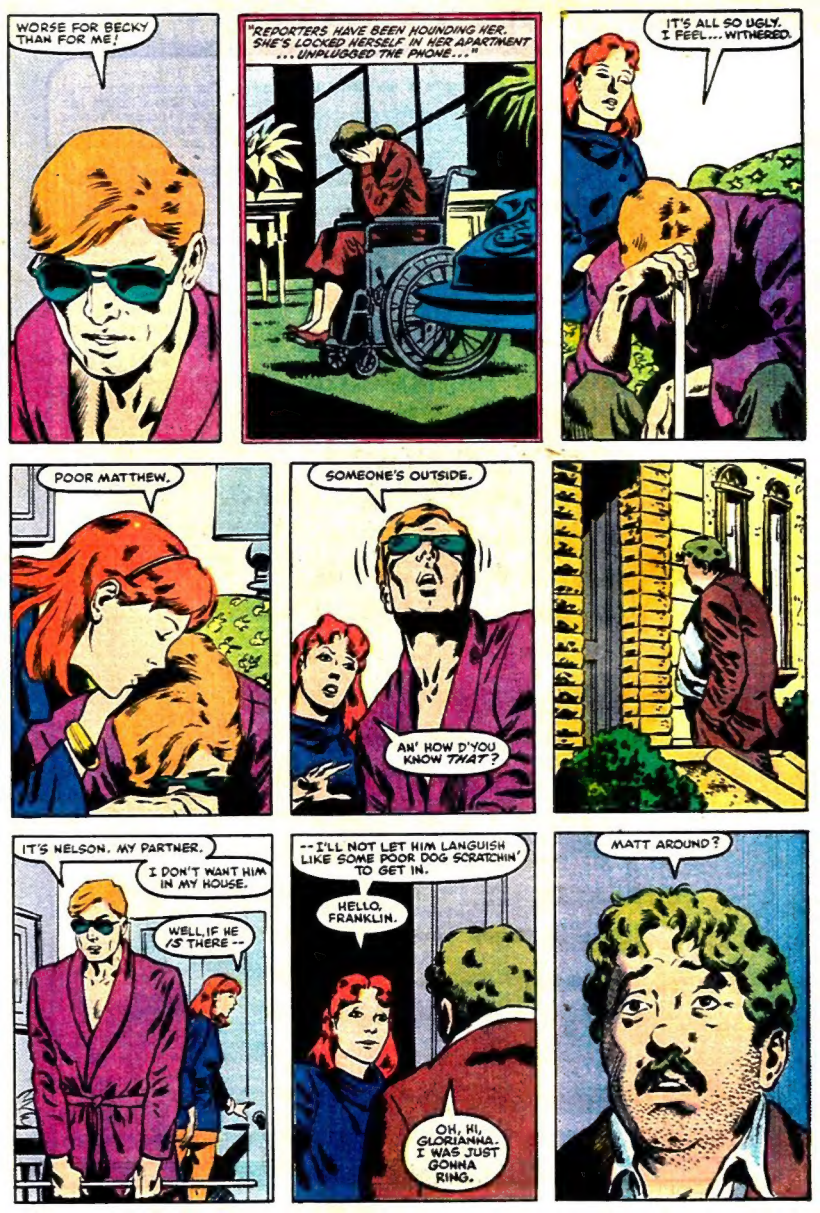
WASTE OF TIME! I MAY HAVE PUT A SCARE INTO A FEW UNDERWORLD TYPES, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING THERE I COULD USE IN COURT-- NOTHING ANYBODY COULD USE!
AND I ALMOST GOT MYSELF KILLED!

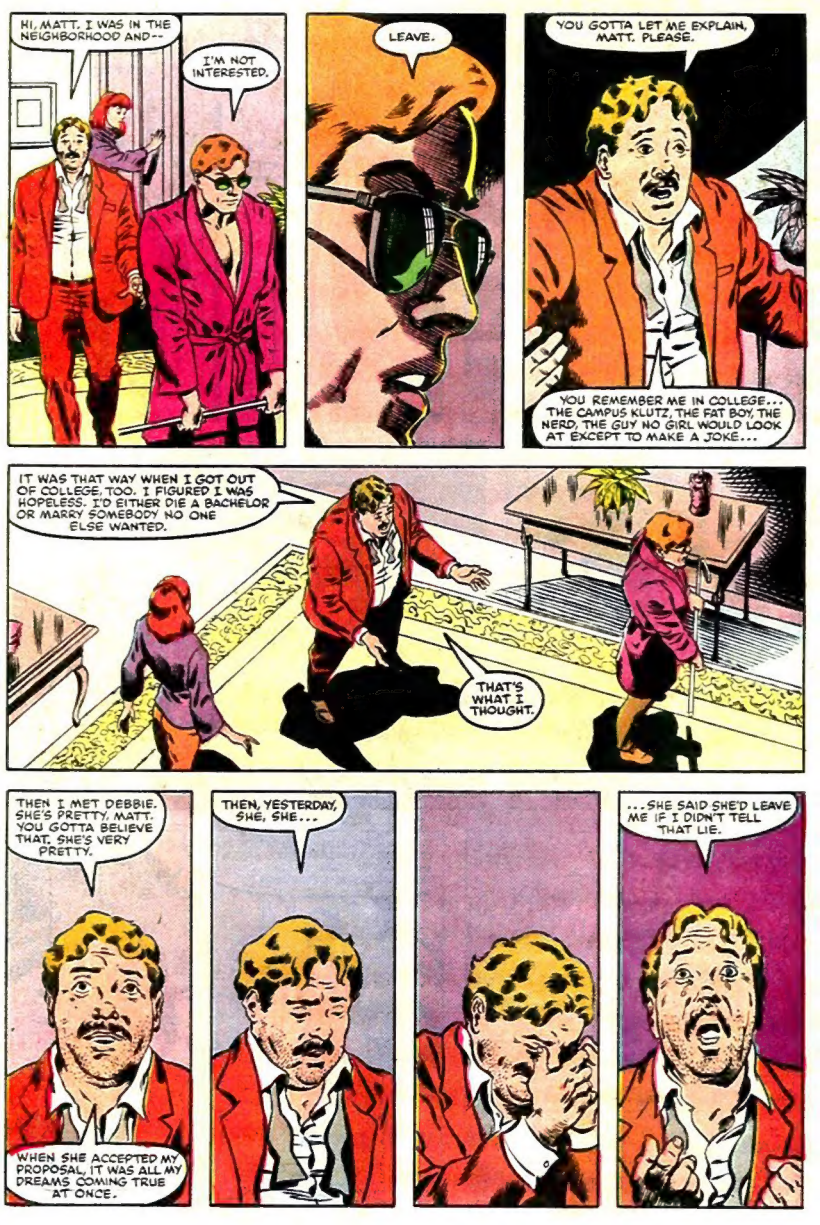
...BLUNDERED INTO DANGER LIKE A BABY RUNNING TO HIS MOTHER. IF I'D BEEN CONCENTRATING...
BUT THAT'S THE PROBLEM. I CAN'T CONCENTRATE.

WHY? WHY DID FOGGY DO IT?

AND, THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
...SAW HIM KILL THE TIGERS, KING MICAH!
WHY? WHY AM I NOT RID OF THIS TROUBLE? THIS... DISEASE? THIS STINK? THIS... DAREDEVIL?
CIGARETTE.
AH.
MICAH...WE GOT A CALL FROM GENE JACKSON--FROM THE TELEVISION PROGRAM? HE WANTS YOU TO BE HIS GUEST TOMORROW.
ME. ON TELEVISION? GOOD, YES.
IS... IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO ?
HAHAHAHAHAHA
AT THAT MOMENT, AT MATT MURDOCK'S SECRET BASEMENT GYMNASIUM...
NO GOOD! I'M PROVING THAT I'M IN GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE--
--BUT MENTALLY, I'M STILL A SMOKING RUIN.
IF I HADN'T KNOWN FOGGY FOR YEARS... IF I DIDN'T CONSIDER HIM MY BEST FRIEND--
SOMEONE'S AT THE FRONT DOOR--
--GLORIANNA!
AN' HOW IS HIMSELF?
NOT EXACTLY WONDERFUL! I CAN'T MAKE MYSELF FORGET THAT HALF OF NEW YORK THINKS I'M A LIAR--
--AN' THAT THE BRUTE SYNN IS A SAINT? ACH... I SAW THE NEWSCASTS. AWFUL THEY WERE!


WORSE FOR BECKY THAN FOR ME!
"REPORTERS HAVE BEEN HOUNDING HER. SHE'S LOCKED HERSELF IN HER APARTMENT ...UNPLUGGED THE PHONE..."
IT'S ALL SO UGLY. I FEEL... WITHERED.
POOR MATTHEW.
SOMEONE'S OUTSIDE.
AN' HOW D'YOU KNOW THAT?
IT'S NELSON. MY PARTNER.
I DON'T WANT HIM IN MY HOUSE.
WELL, IF HE IS THERE --
--I'LL NOT LET HIM LANGUISH LIKE SOME POOR DOG SCRATCHIN' TO GET IN.
HELLO, FRANKLIN.
OH, HI, GLORIANNA. I WAS JUST GONNA RING.
MATT AROUND?


HI, MATT. I WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND--
I'M NOT INTERESTED.
LEAVE.
YOU GOTTA LET ME EXPLAIN, MATT. PLEASE.
YOU REMEMBER ME IN COLLEGE... THE CAMPUS KLUTZ, THE FAT BOY, THE NERD, THE GUY NO GIRL WOULD LOOK AT EXCEPT TO MAKE A JOKE...
IT WAS THAT WAY WHEN I GOT OUT OF COLLEGE, TOO. I FIGURED I WAS HOPELESS. I'D EITHER DIE A BACHELOR OR MARRY SOMEBODY NO ONE ELSE WANTED.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
THEN I MET DEBBIE. SHE'S PRETTY, MATT. YOU GOTTA BELIEVE THAT. SHE'S VERY PRETTY.
WHEN SHE ACCEPTED MY PROPOSAL, IT WAS ALL MY DREAMS COMING TRUE AT ONCE.
THEN, YESTERDAY, SHE, SHE...
...SHE SAID SHE'D LEAVE ME IF I DIDN'T TELL THAT LIE.

I'M SORRY.
YEAH.
WELL...GOODBYE.
FOGGY?
IT'S OKAY, MAN. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
AND...
MYYY-CAH!
I BROUGHT YOU SOME CHOCOLATE COVERED STRAWBERRIES FROM BLOOMIE'S. SCRUMPTIOUS CANDY FOR A SCRUMPTIOUS MAN!

NEXT ISSUE • THE BLINDNESS MEN WISH FOR!